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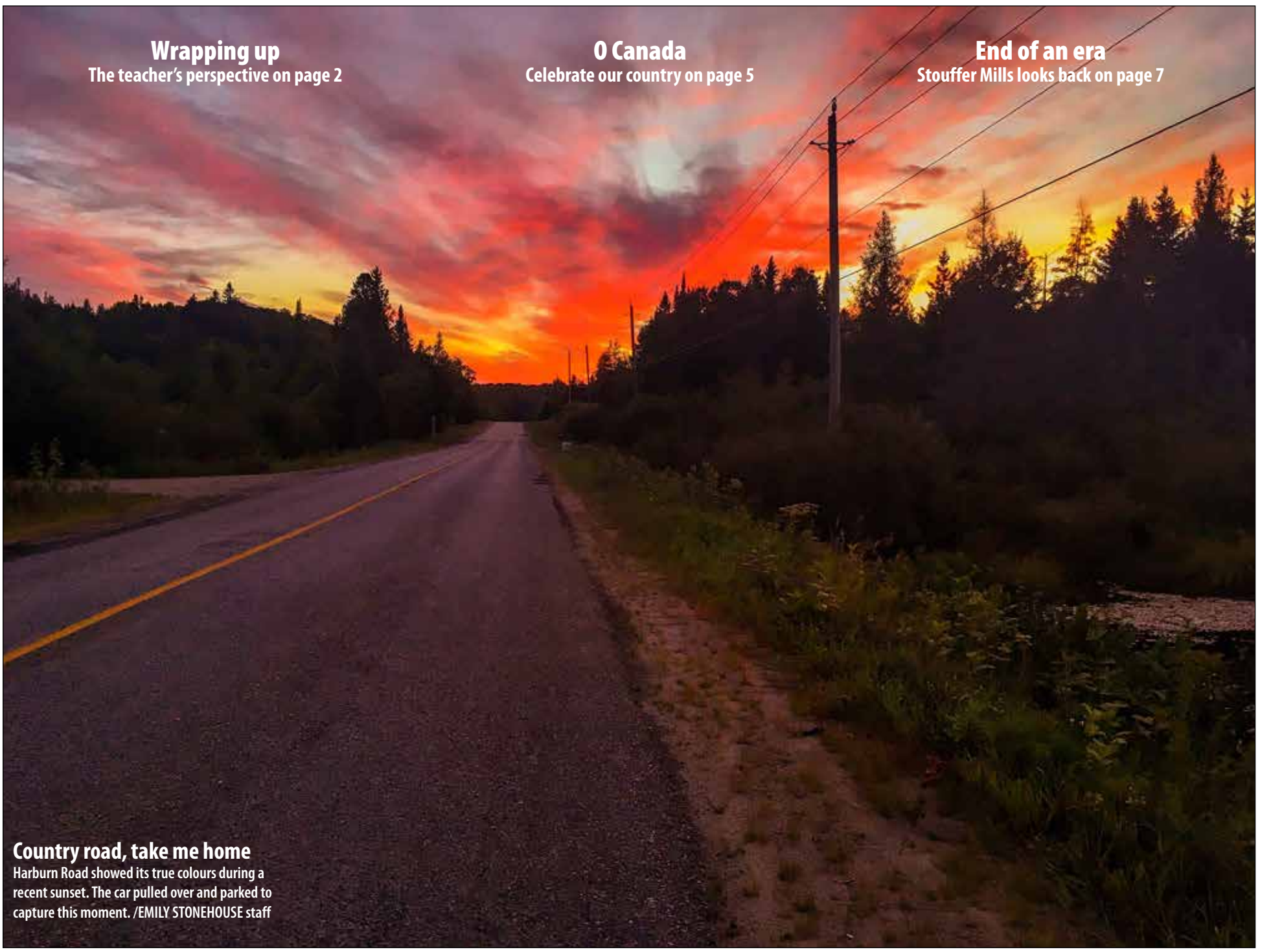

Wrapping up
The teacher's perspective on page 2

O Canada
Celebrate our country on page 5

End of an era
Stouffer Mills looks back on page 7

Country road, take me home
Harburn Road showed its true colours during a recent sunset. The car pulled over and parked to capture this moment. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

This instalment completes our fictional 500-word 27-part class-sized collection of September 'editorials' written by both Grade 5/6 students (ages 9-11) and their brand new teacher. She's in the process of transferring her skills to a town somewhere north of Toronto in the forested lakelands of the Canadian Shield. There, a small school, like many others, already thrives on community spirit, a history of resettlement, nature's healthiness, and the proud diversity of individuals who help define the fabric of our Ontario. We hope you've been enjoying our sample quilt of characters. This entire series has recently been published in a book, titled Room 10.

Miss Theresa Fields: *Leadership*

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

HELLO. I'M the new Grade 5/6 teacher in a village school several hours north of Toronto. I chose to transfer here since I knew little about rural Ontario. I love science, art, music, words … whatever I can add to my personal toolkit of knowledge and facts. These always help give me and others more opportunity for confidence, curiosity and communication.

I live alone now, and my son is grown. He works in the same seaport city where he was born. I miss him, but we speak almost daily. I instantly saw that teaching in countryside Canada holds deep rewards. Just outside my classroom window is a universe of local wildlife quite different from where I grew up. The seasons hold features which fascinate me, and I take to my paintbox.

I'm already relaxing. My 26 students are eager and welcoming, and most of them know each other like family. They're also as instantly familiar to me as they are unlike others I've taught internationally. This bunch is particularly manageable, and wishes to help me with everything. Many seem connected to nature, and look up when thunder rolls in, or a night bird might call by day. *That's a barred owl,* someone explains, *and its eyes are scary-dark!*

My expectations don't daunt most of them, and I've quickly seen who's who within their spectrums of personality, capability and lifestyle. They're generally polite to each other, saying *thanks*, apologizing, holding doors, or sharing lunches. I've spotted the edgiest ones too, those with more to discover about self-awareness or respect. But I encounter this everywhere, and will give consideration and best patience to all.

I've been drawing their faces while they finish seat work. Quick sketches become paintings after I've completed every academic task of weekday evenings. My plan is to gift all children with personal portraits to acknowledge their 10 months of hard work. Kids change a lot between September and June. I watch them as a grandmother might, considering both small and bigger pictures. I'm not yet sure I'll retire up here, but I do feel very comfortable. At 47, I'm already grey-haired, so students think I'm ancient! A few have accidentally called me *Nana*, and one sweet nine-year-old briefly took my hand in the schoolyard.

When I tidy up after class, I often find handwritten messages that were sneakily transferred and since forgotten. Printed on yesterday's discard: *thanks bro for taking me to get a bandaid.* I value such niceness (and good spelling) over any illicit note-passing. Unfortunately, today's crumpled paper asserts: *UR SO DUMBB!* Oh well. Par for the course, I guess.

I'm prepared to learn as much from this group as it might from me. We talk about gentleness, equality, and all the many loving ways to be in this world. I was thrilled to be hired, and I'm proud and very grateful to be participating in education up here. I simply want everyone's very best voices to be heard. Clearly. Constantly. Canada.

CountyLife

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Moose poop

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

LATELY, I'VE been running into a lot of moose poop. Actually, it's more like I've been running around it. The point is, it seems that whenever I go into the forest these days there is a new pile of moose poop for me to point out.

Pointing out moose poop is one of those things that outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen like to do. Frankly, we wear it as a badge of honour.

Our ability to point out moose poop is the thing that makes others say, "That person is either a real outdoorsman or a large animal gastroenterologist … "

But it is not as simple as it sounds.

There is an accepted etiquette when you discover a pile of moose poop in front of a captive audience. First, you are obligated to identify it. Then you are expected to note its size and shape. Then, you immediately speculate on its level of freshness.

The freshest and easiest type of moose poop to identify is the type that is currently dropping from beneath the tail of the moose just ahead of you on the trail.

In all other cases, you are expected to examine the poop and make up an extremely specific estimate regarding its freshness.

Typically, you do this by standing over it, waving its scent into your nostrils. Then you look at it for a moment or two and then spend at least a minute listening to it. After that you present your diagnosis.

For instance, you might say, "That moose stopped here to poop four hours and 34 minutes ago."

Being specific is especially important, because it makes it sound as if you have seen so much moose poop in your life that you can tell how old it is by minor indicators. It is as if you have a vast database of moose poop knowledge in your head – which is something more than one teacher told me too.

There are few things that impress people more than this.

The reaction you get also tells you about where the person who you are telling it to resides.

Those who live in urban areas are fascinated by it – to the point of sometimes taking photos or even selfies with it. Those who live in rural areas outside of moose country or cottage here, nod and know what it is and often try to comment on the freshness of it too. (When that happens, it is important to laugh aloud and then claim the home court advantage.) And then there are those who spend time at Parliament Hill or Queen's Park. They just look at the pile and say, "I've seen a lot worse."

The point is, like most people who live in moose country, I consider myself lucky, for I have seen more moose poop than any man has a right to see.

In fact, I often say, "I may not be rich in money, or real estate, or jewelry, or anything else of real value, but I am rich in moose poop sightings."

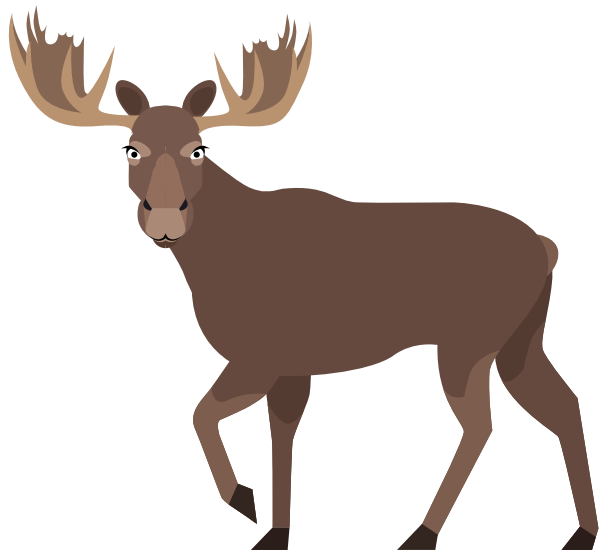
This never fails to leave people speechless.

A real connoisseur might even be able to make up a little something regarding what the moose was eating at the time.

For instance, you might say something like, "It looks like the animal was dining on water lilies. Yes, I can smell a hint of water lily!"

This also adds to your reputation. Heck, if you play your cards right, you might even come to be known as the area's foremost expert on moose excrement.

Trust me, it's great. I am already known for this with bulls.



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Looking for inclusivity in local music and art

Members of the Blue Jay Cafe. /FILE

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Together, we keep local radio on the air.

In the fall of 2025, we got together and asked ourselves: what does the Haliburton County music scene need? Haliburton is already widely known for its arts and culture, its folk scene, and its ability to bring big-name artists to a small but thriving town. As a group, we asked ourselves, "How can we make the scene even better?" The answer was right in front of us. It's you. It's us. Our town is filled to the brim with talent, and it has become our mission to let the world know about it. Our goal is to put on inclusive shows featuring local artists, musicians, and dancers - creatives of all kinds - and to shout about it from the rooftops so you always know what's going on in town!

The "we" in this conversation is Bethany Houghton, Jocelyn Regina, Lizzy Clarke, Kelsey Redman, and Laurie Sweig. All of us are, in one way or another, actively involved in the Haliburton County music scene. We have pooled our knowledge, experience, blood, sweat, and tears to create showcases and events that highlight the artistry and talent that exists here.

Armed with coffee, tea, and sweet treats from local bakeries, we sat down to discuss how to connect and celebrate local artists. We talked about how divided the separate creative disciplines feel in Haliburton. Haliburton is known for its visual artists. It's also got a reputation for being a music hub! However, the two feel oceans apart despite thriving in the same county. As musicians, we all know each other. We jam, rehearse, and attend each other's events regularly, but we only occasionally work directly with visual artists, dancers, writers, or thespians. All styles of art stem from the same place in the brain and heart. We thought it would be nice to find ways to connect the many corners of the rich and vibrant world of Haliburton arts.

The Blue Jay Cafe

The first idea to come to life was the Blue Jay Café Coffee House. It's a daytime performance opportunity that welcomes performers of all levels (and ages) and features a visual artist. Refreshments are made available as a fundraiser for our local dance troupe.

The Blue Jay Café Coffee House feels a bit like an open mic, with pre-registration for performers. The event is designed to be family-oriented, offering mini performance slots for very young performers to show off their skills! To date, we have held two of them, and both – to our immense joy – were a huge success. We have another planned for Monday, Sept. 7, 2026 (yes, that is Labour Day Monday). We'll be sharing details soon.

The Blue Jay Café Pop-Ups

We're also thrilled to be putting on smaller-scale performances that we're calling Blue Jay Café Pop-ups. These will be held at Redmans Records. A half-hour busking-style show featuring one performer or group. The first is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. We will post details on Facebook and Instagram. Follow @bluejaycafehali for more information.

From The Blue Jay Cafe

You are holding the latest development from the Blue Jay Café team in your hand! We will be collaborating to write a monthly article, From the Blue Jay Café, which will appear right here the last week of the month. Our goal is to share, highlight, and celebrate art in this community! We hope to spread information, ideas, and experiences all about art.

That's right. Art comes in all shapes, sizes and sounds. We want to share it all with you.

We want to feature YOU in our article, on our social media, and throughout the community! If you have a performance coming up, an art show, or a brilliant thought about art, dance, or music, please contact bluejaycafehali@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading!

Submitted by Bethany, Jocelyn, Kelsey, Lizzy and Laurie
Blue Jay Café Team

Writing on the Senior Side

O Canada

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

IT'S GREAT to have Canada in World Cup soccer, and exciting to have it here in our country and to cheer on our Canadian team. I have been watching and more or less enjoying it. I say more or less because I am not a fan of soccer, and even watching granddaughters' games can be long and somewhat tedious, but hey, this is our World Cup, and I'm in.

Here is what I have observed so far:

Elite soccer players have superpowers, maybe even divine connections. The game is rough, and those poor players are constantly being killed, well, almost killed as they lie on the pitch writhing in pain, grabbing at an ankle or foot or leg and sometimes even their heads. They roll around and around in horrible pain, and it is upsetting to see this reflected in their sobbing faces and then … and then a minute later, the super divine powers click in, and they jump up and keep playing. Wow, it's a miracle! Of course, there are a few who are hurt, and we feel sad for these mortals in pain.

Elite soccer players never intentionally touch or take down an opponent, so of course, they have to get in the referee's face and protest their innocence. "Who me? No way" is understood in every language. Such innocence is to be admired.

The fans are crazy fun and crazy devoted to their teams. I love these fans. I watched Ghana score a goal, and they had me jumping up and down with them. Who can resist such enthusiasm? I love the celebration of nationhood.

I must watch four teams - Canada, of course, England because that is my heritage. I wish Ireland were in it, oh well. I watch Germany because that's Peter's heritage. Peter was born in Germany and came to Canada when he was four years old. That means our kids are half German. Yes, I watched Germany and that 7 - 1 win was a masterclass in passing and scoring. I cheered. My fourth team is Scotland because when I took an Ancestry DNA test a few years ago, I found out I have Scottish ancestry on both sides of my family, and I am 14 per cent Scottish. Who knew? This explains my delight with the Scottish accent and the bagpipes. I suppose I can add the Scotland soccer team.

Visitors from other countries who come for soccer are a unique breed. Yes, I know I already said they are crazy fun at the games, but they are even more fun around the cities of Toronto and Vancouver - Stop the world for soccer visitors and delight in their happiness. Close the streets, even if it's Yonge and Dundas. Enjoy the moment with them and through them. If I were eighteen again, I would go and dance in the streets with them. I remember a similar party at the Toronto City Hall when our hockey team won something. I can't remember exactly what it was. Maybe it was in 1972 when we - that is the Canadian "we' - won the Canada-Russia series. I also remember that Peter and our kids had a great time at the parades when the Blue Jays won the World Series twice! I remember the basketball coach benched Jimmy for the next high school game because he missed practice when he went to the parade. Jim probably wouldn't have remembered the game, but he sure remembers celebrating with the whole city at the parade. The coach may have been a little sour because he couldn't skip school and spend time with his dad. I was teaching at the time. I wanted to go, but teachers don't skip school. It's okay, I still have my 1992 Blue Jays World Series Champions sweatshirt.

All in all, I have a new understanding, appreciation and joy for World Cup soccer. I have my best seat, at no cost, on my couch in front of the 75-inch TV. It works well for living on the senior side. I hope I can watch again, four years from now.

O Canada

Canada Day is July 1, and I hope you put on your Canada. I am writing this edition of Writing on the Senior Side in June, and you may not read it until Canada Day is over, so I've decided we should keep up this celebration for the whole month, especially this year. Our elbows have been up for some time now, and it's time to wave those arms and sing, dance in every part of our country. Let's celebrate our history, our present and our future. Let's cheer for Canada.

Two Canadian flags mark the entrance of our driveway, and one large Canadian flag hangs near our house. How much fun would it be to see flags on every house across our beautiful land? How much fun would it be to see every child waving a small handheld flag? When my kids were little, we made a Canada cake and sang O Canada on the front step by our Canada flag, and the neighbourhood kids joined us. In later years, there was still Canada cake or perhaps cupcakes by the pool. Celebrate, and if you missed it, no worries, it's not too late. July 1 is Canada Day, but the celebration of Canada month can go on and on. Perhaps this is the month to remember or learn about the Fathers of Confederation, from John A. MacDonald, the first Prime Minister, to D'Arcy McGee, the first political assassination in the new country of Canada. Did you know that Canada has three founding peoples: the Indigenous peoples, the French, and the English? O Canada includes all those who were born here and all who have chosen to be Canadian. This is our country, and we are proud and strong. O Canada, the true north strong and free … We stand on guard for thee!

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Piece of the past

I SPEND a lot of time in an antique store.

It helps that the shop also sells sweet treats and hot coffee, and most people around town know they can find me there at least once a week. I end up coordinating more interviews in my time at a desk in the shop than I ever could via email.

But as I have spent time in the space that's filled with items from every age and stage of the past, I have started to become attached to some of the pieces. While I usually find myself chatting and working, sometimes I think about who has sat at this exact table, chatting and working over the years.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

And I don't just mean in the coffee shop. Most of the antiques in the space hail from Ireland, a long and treacherous journey across the sea (made much easier in this day and age, I'm sure).

But at some point, on a random day in the past, someone carved these tables, someone pieced them together. Someone sold them as their craft, and someone bought them for their family. On a random day in the past, someone ate meals at these tables, played cards, lit candles

And the same can be said for so many pieces in this shop. They carry stories, they trigger memories.

I watched, during one random day in the cafe, a grandmother wander through the shop with her grandson, pointing out different bits and pieces that once meant so much to her. She found a record player, an old table, weathered books. All bits and bobs that peppered her past, seasoned her story.

In a day and age where the world moves fast, where we look to attain the biggest, the brightest, the boldest, there's something to be said for pieces of the past.

One of the most popular sections of our *Haliburton Echo* newspaper is the Pic of the Past. We have locals and visitors alike dropping off images from their stories, their lives. They want to share with others, to connect with a time that's gone by, and to reminisce on a different chapter they experienced.

While many of the pieces in this antique shop have lives that span far beyond the lifetimes of those living, they still carry the energies and presence of the past.

Sometimes I look at the piece I am seated at, and see tick marks along the side, maybe a little boy keeping track of time on a random rainy day, many moons ago. There's the odd burn mark from a candle dripping, a whittle mark from the carver, a smear of paint, accidentally dripped on a random hot summer's day, when inspiration struck.

Pieces of the past have a way of reminding us of the path we've taken, the journey we've been on. It makes us feel like we are part of something bigger, a communal race we are all running, a spirited sprint we share.

While it may seem like we are only able to look forwards, there is beauty in taking the risk to look back, to remember those who walked before us, to read the stories carved into the wood.

Because we all lived on random days in the past. We eat meals and play cards and light candles at tables in our homes.

And perhaps, one day in the future, someone will be working in a coffee shop at that exact table, musing about the piece of the past, and etching their own words into its story.

Top 10 reasons why we never domesticated porcupines

HUMANS ARE amazing in the way that we have domesticated the animals we need. Chickens, cows, pigs, turkeys, horses, dogs, cats and others have all formed relationships with us – though not always great ones for them.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

What fascinates me more though are the animals that we have never domesticated – the porcupine being one. I gave this some thought and came up with 10 good reasons why we never domesticated porcupines. They are:

1. When you try to ride them, it hurts.
2. A typical porky drive, from one side of the road to the other, takes 16 days.
3. Not ideal for petting zoos.
4. Just try to get a dog to round them up twice.
5. No longer a great market for quill pens.
6. Crossbreeding programs basically out of the question.
7. Sure, you can lasso them. But then what?
8. Afraid they'll eventually try to become cuddly, like lap dogs.
9. Their mating cry of "Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!" too difficult to listen to.
10. Meat a cross between pork and pine.

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North

Forest of concrete trees springing from slabs of
cement, cranes scraping Sky,
my eyes roaming upward, grazing the windows of
towers, sealed from the world Outside
by white blinds,
not seeing the seagull as its wings flap through Air,
or the pair of grey birds that perch on a wire,
their chirps muzzled by the blare of horns polluting
the street, the wails of sirens streaking past the
traffic lights'
bloodshot eyes, my Heart fluttering in my chest like
a bird's wings in their nest before they attempt their
first flight,
as I wait for the lights to blink green, craving the
open spaces of Lakes and an uncluttered Sky freckled
with stars,
quiet so loud, my ears can hear the plaintive moans
of a loon mourning its lost mate, from across the Lake,
instead of these horns and sirens littering Air, I
glance up at the pair of grey birds perched on the wire,
wondering what they are conversing about, whether
they can hear one another over the din of human
traffic below,
as a third bird joins them, landing on the wire strung
between two posts poking from the ground,
stretching over the scraggly trees planted in the
space between the sidewalk and street,
squares of concrete bordering the trees, I wonder
how deep their roots will slither as they grow,
whether they will sprawl underground beneath the
road, the concrete towers casting shadows on the rows
of city trees,
that will never know the quiet and camaraderie of
growing in the forest with their con-freres,
my feet fidgeting, my nose tickling, waiting for the
lights to change, inhaling the scent of the stranger that
stands beside me,
making me sneeze, craving the fragrance of pines
carried on a breeze, instead,
closing my eyes for a moment,
seeing the island that I used to swim to, floating in
the black space behind my eyes,
the pines, their spines permanently bent from seasons of storm and Wind, still there, waiting to welcome me,
the lights blinking green, as I'm swept away in a sea
of feet crossing the street,
meeting strangers' eyes for a flicker of a moment
before glancing away, staring straight ahead into the
backs of peoples' heads,
blind to the seagull that glides above us, over the
tops of towers and steel cranes swinging through Air,
its wings free to flap in whichever direction it
chooses, past the sprawling forest of concrete trees and
gridlocked streets,
away from the cacophony of horns and sirens and
the claws of giant CATS gauging out clumps of earth
to build taller towers that crowd the ground and flatten clouds, the seagull flying toward the place
where the wings of geese grace Sky with their flight,
where solitary loons serenade Lakes with their haunting cries,
calling out into the Night, where the Milky Way
sprays the blackness with light,
my eyes squinting up at the fleck of white, flapping
its way North, as my feet slap across slabs of cement,
veering onto a side street where old oaks and maple
trees grow, canopying the sidewalk in shade,
where I pause to still my thoughts and rest my
Breath, slipping off my flip-flops to feel blades of grass
tickle the soles of my feet,
the chirps of birds flitting between trees, dripping
into my ears, breeze grazing my cheeks,
a balm for my body and city-weary Soul, bathing
them, for this brief moment, in a fleeting peace,
I inhale summer Air, slow and deep, welcoming it
back, wishing it a long stay,
wishing I were that seagull, for a single day, flying
solo up there, somewhere, winging its way North.

Sylvie Kalenda

The end of an era for Stouffer Mills

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Jessie and Don Pflug have spent nearly 40 years in their Stouffer Mills home, opening their doors to guests from all over the world. With retirement on the horizon, the couple looked back on their decades hosting the Bed and Breakfast. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Walking into Don and Jessie Pflug's 12-sided home is an experience unto itself.

And for nearly 40 years, the couple has welcomed exactly 24,968 people to stay at their home. They've seen folks from all over the world, some who speak the same language, others who don't. Kids, grandkids, returning clients, customers who become friends, friends who become family.

They've met thousands, all without leaving the comfort of their 12-sided home.

The Pflugs were the proud owners of Stouffer Mill Bed and Breakfast. Located on 136 acres in the heart of Algonquin Highlands, the couple purchased the property in 1991. Prior to that, they were residing in Mississauga, working in real estate. They had been married since 1977, and cottaged on Horseshoe Lake.

So when it came time to make a move, the Haliburton Highlands already felt like home.

While the real estate industry was bustling when they arrived, within a few short years, the market had taken a nosedive. It was during this crash that the Pflugs had just made the region their permanent homebase.

On a particularly bright and sunny morning, Don and Jessie looked out the large windows of their home, overlooking Halls Lake and leafy trees as far as the eye could see. "And Don said, 'Jessie, we should really be sharing this view with someone,'" recalled the owner, "and that's when the B and B started."

But there was one tiny consideration to keep in mind: "We had never stayed at a B and B before," laughed Jessie. "But we just wanted to treat people the way we would have wanted to be treated."

Each day started with freshly baked muffins, with Jessie in the kitchen. "Breakfast is a big affair," she said. "We do well by our breakfast."

"The first thing we always tell all our guests is 'you're home now'," said Don. "No need to ring the doorbell, they come and go as they please. This is their home now."

When asked what it's been like to have thousands of houseguests over the years, Don and Jessie just laugh. "We're so used to it now," said Jessie. "It feels strange when they're not here."

The only break in their business came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when regulations and uncertainty caused the B and B to push pause. "As soon as we could open again, we did," said Jessie, "I was so happy to have people around again."

With an 89th birthday just around the corner, Don cites age as the only reason they're stepping away at this stage. But they aren't going far. The couple are moving to a home in Minden, and have sold the property to someone who has stayed at their place in the past. While it's tough to say goodbye, they are both hopeful that the property - and the many memories it carries - will be in good hands.

When asked about what they will miss the most, the warm room overlooking the lake suddenly falls quiet. After a moment, Jessie answers. "The people," she said. "It's the friendships we've made."

The couple reflected on artisan shows, fundraisers, a New Year's Eve wedding, and a FIFA World Cup match featuring Brazil and Germany, with people from both countries staying in the house. The couple remembered hiking trails named after their beloved dogs, languages from around the world, a tornado burst, and long chats in the kitchen with fresh muffins.

"We can get very blasé about where we live, but it makes you see where we live again with fresh eyes," said Jessie, noting the excitement of her guests over the years. "I love my job. It's been our pleasure to be able to offer the hospitality of Stouffer Mills over the years."

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Shop 35 yard sales all in one spot!
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728Mountain Street, Haliburton

Shoppers: park on Highland Street, Maple Avenue, or a free municipal parking lot on Highland Street, York Street, Park Street

Visit our satellite locations on Saturday, July 4, 2026:

In-store sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store, 33 York St, Haliburton
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Thrift Warehouse, 128 Mallard Road, Haliburton

Gently-used book sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Dysart Branch Haliburton County Public Library, 78 Maple Avenue, Haliburton (hosted by Friends of the Haliburton County
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Haliburton Highlands Museum, 66 Museum Rd, Haliburton

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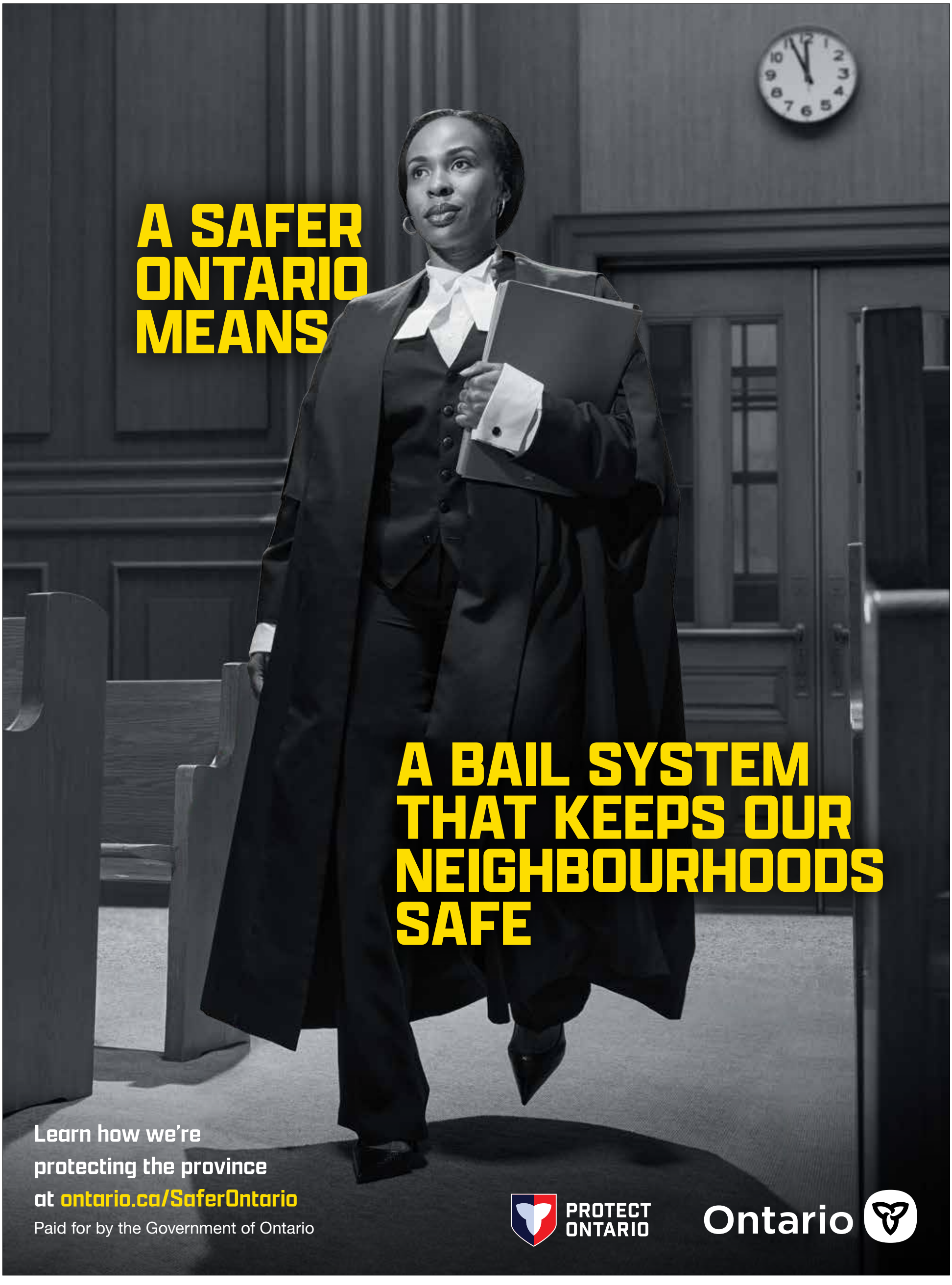
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Charming 2-bedroom, 1-bath cottage, 10 minutes from Minden, private .89-acre lot w/ 120 ft, western-exposure waterfront. New windows, flooring, and a renovated bathroom. Deep, rocky shoreline is ideal for swimming, clear waters, paddling, jumping cliffs, access to Queen Elizabeth parklands.

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$799,999

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1077 EIGHTH LANE- HUNTER CREEK ESTATES

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- Detached oversized garage
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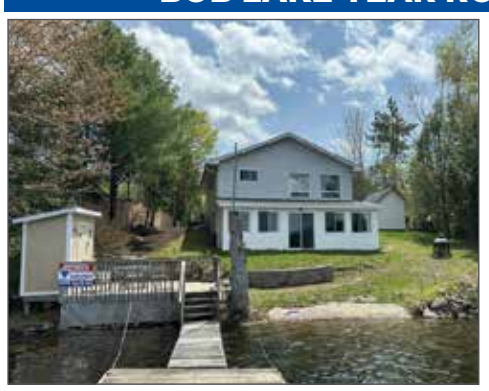
- Flat level corner lot overlooking green-space

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
Info@cherylsmithremax.com

BOB LAKE YEAR ROUND $949,999



Visit this 3 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom Year Round Cottage on Bob Lake With a Boat Launch on the property. Walk out Finished Basement Garage and Storage Sheds

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705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

7180 GELERT ROAD $569,000

Charming family home in Haliburton, walking distance to schools, extensively renovated with open-concept living/dining & kitchen area on main floor - stone fireplace, laminate flooring - main floor laundry - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - family room - huge rear deck & yard backs onto wooded area

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ted@tedvasey.ca

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A fawn under cover by David Zilstra

Moose by Tammy Nash

Red bellied woodpecker from Maggie Lawrence

A new family by Randy Barber

Heron landing by Jill Moulton

Robin feeding her babies by Rob Barnes

Tongue out by Tammy Nash

Glimpses of the past

Around Gull Lake – The River through Minden

While not technically "around Gull Lake", these post cards show the Gull River north of the head of the lake. Many MBL guests have motored to town, up the "Minden River".

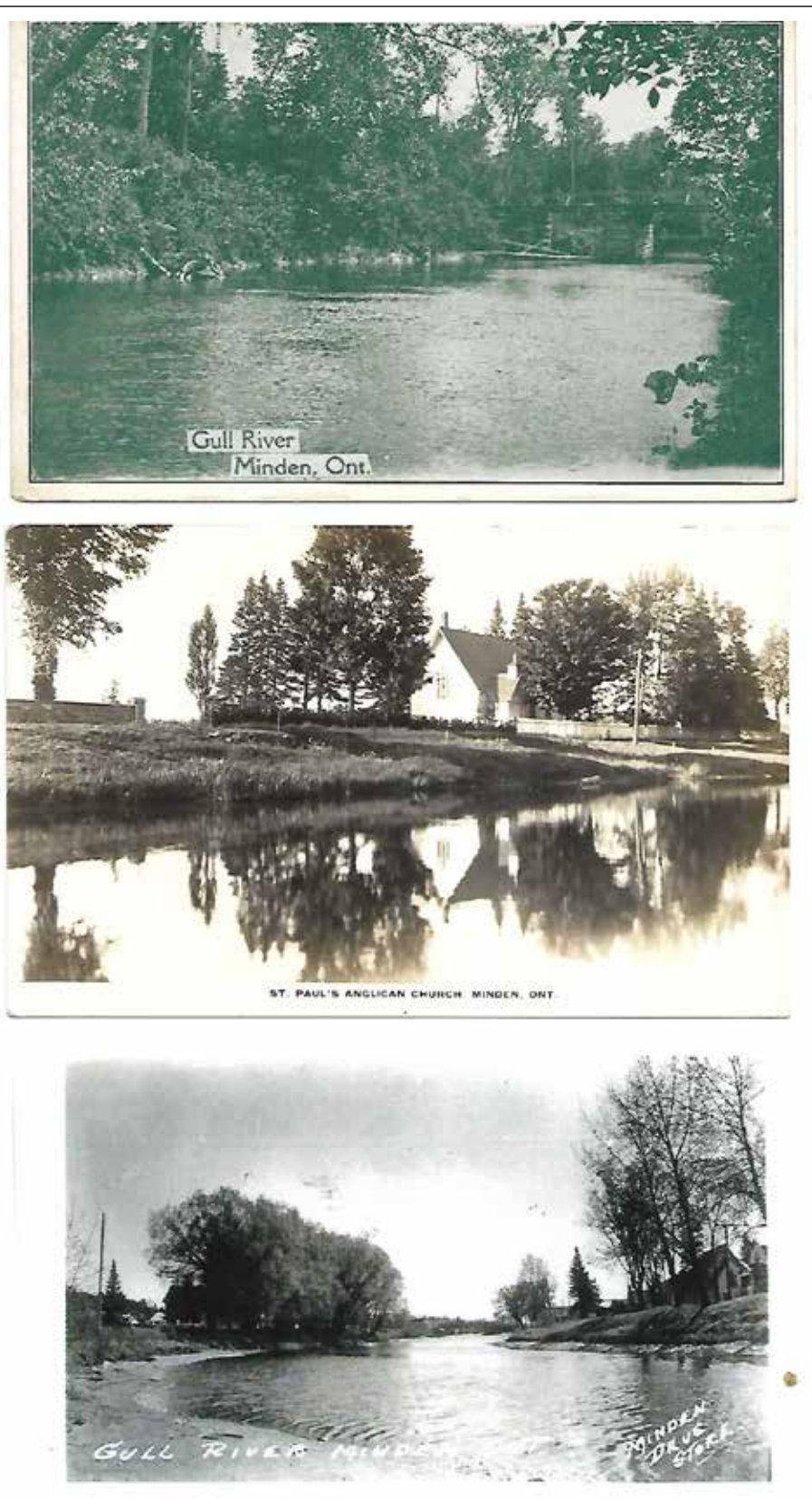
RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

Going against the current, the couple-mile trip could take a fair bit of time with a small motor. Until a few decades ago, most of the route meandered past farms and through woodland. Today, cottages line much of the route.

These three views date to c. 1940, and show the river as it flows through Minden. The first is a post card that is printed green, and may be older. It appears to show the private bridge that crosses the river to what is now Beaver Brook Golf Course.

The second is a real photo post card looking at St. Paul's Anglican Church. The photographer was located on the river, just north of the current Main Street Bridge.

The final view is taken from a post card commissioned by the Minden Drug Store. It was taken farther upstream, looking south, and the Church is on the right bank. The electric pole on the left of the image is about where Boshkung Brewery is now situated. The water is very low, indicating that the Orillia Power Dam north of town was likely holding back water. The bridge is the predecessor of the current concrete structure.



Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Lions' Community Garage Sale for Dog Guide Fundraiser
When: Saturday, July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: A.J. LaRue arena parking lot
Books Sale, Yard Sale, Plant Sale. Remember to bring your Pop Tabs for puppies. Website: haliburtonlions.com

Learn How to do "Winter Sowing" of Seeds
When: July 7, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Park St., Minden
Do you love to garden?! Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society to learn how to do "Winter Sowing" of seeds from guest speaker Sylvia Strobl, followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: July 8, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Edgewater Grill, Kinmount
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: July 9, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

A visit to the Miners' Bay Store C. 1960
When: July 8, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, at the foot of the Rock Cut, at the corner of Highway 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. Each session features a unique theme plus new local stories and vignettes not shared before. The Air Conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Murder at Birchwood Estate: A Victorian Mystery
When: July 10, 11, Doors open at 6 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Community Centre, 9 Grandy Rd., Coboconk
Your presence is requested at Birchwood Estate for a formal evening of fine dining and intrigue. Immerse yourself in a world of secrets, suspicion, and scandal - but beware … all is not as it appears. 50 guests per evening; silent auction and prizes on the night. Tickets $85. 705-209-3044. hystoryentertainment@gmail.com.

The Golden Owl Frog Hollow Integrative Art Experience
When: July 11 to 12
Where: SpiralGate of Art and Wellbeing, 18378 Highway 118, Tory Hill, Ontario
For registration and information email froghollow118@gmail.com. Community Website: www.FrogHollowArtExperience.com. Whirling Wisdom Art Studio: www.BiljanaArt.com. Instagram: @whirling.wisdom.art

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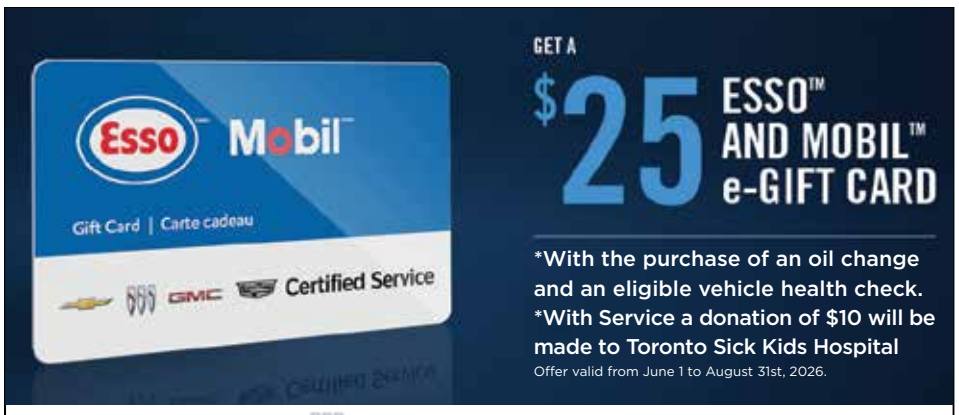

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Passport inspires local historical travel

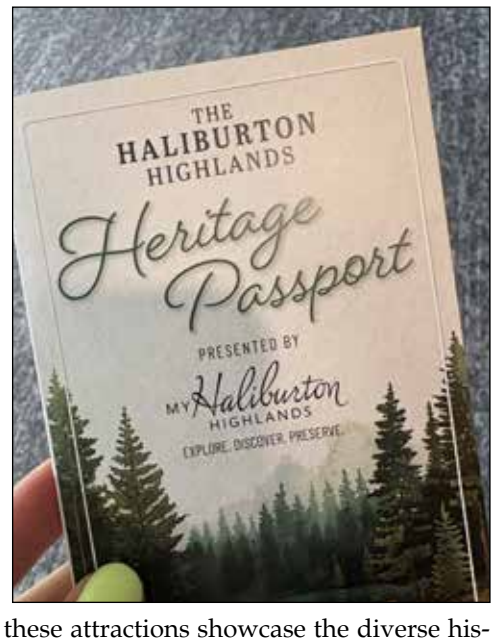
This summer, visitors and residents are invited to experience the Haliburton Highlands in a whole new way with the launch of the Haliburton Highlands Heritage Passport, an interactive tourism experience that encourages you to discover the county's museums, communities, and unique local stories.

The Heritage Passport invites participants to travel throughout the Highlands, visit participating museums, collect stamps, and uncover the rich history that has shaped the region. From pioneer settlements and historic schoolhouses to cultural centres and heritage collections, each stop offers a new opportunity to connect with the people, places, and stories that make the Haliburton Highlands a remarkable destination.

"We're delighted to share the history of our region with residents and visitors who are in the area this summer," said Haliburton County Warden Dave Burton. "The Heritage Passport is a great initiative that shines a spotlight on our wonderful museums and cultural centres through a collaborative partnership created by our tourism department."

Haliburton County tourism manager Angelica Ingram said the passport will provide a family friendly activity that is available to all this summer.

"Whether you're planning a family day trip, welcoming visiting friends and relatives, or looking for a new adventure close to home, the Heritage Passport offers a fun and meaningful way to explore the Highlands," said Ingram.



How it works

The Heritage Passport is available for free at any of the six museums located in Haliburton County.

Participants can:

- Visit participating museums and collect a Heritage Passport stamp at each location. (Please note you do not have to visit every museum to be eligible to win).
- Collect six stamps to receive a voucher for a Kawartha Dairy ice cream cone.
- Collect all eight stamps and submit their completed passport for a chance to win a prize.
- Drop off your completed passport in a ballot box at any of the six museums.

Passport stamps can be collected until August 31, 2026.

Participating locations include:

- Dorset Heritage Museum
- Stanhope Heritage Museum
- Kidd Schoolhouse Museum
- Haliburton Highlands Museum
- Red Cross Outpost Museum
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Together, these attractions showcase the diverse history, culture, and heritage of the Highlands while providing opportunities to discover local businesses, restaurants, parks, and much more along the way.

The Heritage Passport is part of an ongoing effort to promote cultural tourism within the Haliburton Highlands and encourage visitors to spend more time exploring the region. By connecting museums through a shared visitor experience, the program highlights the important role heritage attractions play in creating memorable travel experiences and preserving local stories for future generations.

To learn more about the Haliburton Highlands Heritage Passport, visit www.myhaliburtonhighlands.com/heritage-passport.

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YARD/GARAGE SALES

We are back for another year with our annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale! Location: **1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden** Date: Thursday, **July 2** - Noon-6pm. Friday, **July 3** - 8am-4pm. Saturday, **July 4** - 8am-4pm. Follow our road signs! RAIN OR SHINE

BIG yard sale **July 11 & 12** 9am till 2pm Hunter Creek Estates, Minden **multiple residents participating**

HELP WANTED

Housekeeper needed one day per week, flexible schedule, experience required. $25/hr Cash. Location: 10 min north of Minden. Call **905-640-8750**

Handyman for outdoor landscape maintenance needed, one to two days per week. No equipment required. $25/hrs Cash. Between Minden and Haliburton. Call **647-321-5050**

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Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. Contact: 705-457-3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

2 Bedroom Condo for Rent. Located in the town of Haliburton. $3,000/month. First and Last. Furnished or Unfurnished. Underground Parking. Hydro and Cable T.V. are not included. Available after July 10. Contact Dan Trautman at **905-853-8253**

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Legion Events

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Tuesdays: Closed, Special Events Only. July 7 – Executive Meeting 7 p.m., July 14 – General Meeting 7 p.m., July 21, 28 - Exercise Club @ 1 p.m.
Wednesdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m. – July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Darts at 2 p.m., $5/player, $10 LA Quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 1. 8 Cribbage @ 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m. – July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Horsehoes 7 p.m., $5/person July 2, 16 – Painting class with Luann 10 a.m., July 9, 23 - HHHS Social Rec at 10 am
Fridays: Open 2 to 11 p.m. – July 3, 17, 31 Wings and Jam Session 5 to 8 p.m. - $15/lb, July 10 - Fish & Chips 5 to 8 p.m., 1pc - $15 2pc - $20, July 24 – Cannelloni dinner and live music, 5 to 8 p.m. - $10
Saturdays: Open 2 to 7 p.m. – July 4 – Uncle Bob's Rock Bass Kids Fishing Derby, weigh in 1 to 3 p.m., July 25 – 100th Celebration, opening @ noon, Kids Karaoke 12-1 p.m., Tree Planting 1 to 2 p.m., Live Band 2 - 4 p.m., July 4, 11, 18, 25 - Meat Draw @ 3 p.m. $1/ticket,
Sundays: Closed, Special Events Only. July 12 – LA Breakfast, 9 to 11 a.m. - $10
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Branch 441 Kinmount

Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Email: 441RCL@gmail.com. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Planning a function, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, No Darts for the Summer. Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 - 11 p.m.
Friday - Full menu 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fish and Chips and Wings 4 to 7 p.m..
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CURRY GMC

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is seeking a
LICENSED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN (310S)
to join our service team. As a key member of our dealership, you will play an essential role in delivering a high-quality service experience while ensuring vehicle safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

Key Responsibilities:
- Perform vehicle maintenance and repairs as assigned
- Diagnose vehicle malfunctions and complete repairs accurately and efficiently
- Inspect vehicles to identify additional safety or service-related needs
- Communicate repair procedures and findings clearly with Service Advisors
- Complete road tests and safety inspections
- Maintain productivity while meeting dealership quality standards
- Support overall service department efficiency and customer satisfaction

Qualifications:
- Valid Automotive Service Technician Certificate of Qualification (310S)
- Strong mechanical and diagnostic aptitude
- Valid Ontario Driver's Licence (Class G) with a clean driving record
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment
- Positive, professional attitude with strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to operate both manual and automatic transmissions
- Previous dealership experience preferred; GM training considered an asset

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation based on experience
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- Supportive team environment in a locally owned dealership

We do thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Send your resumes to Al Clement, Service Manager
al@currychevrolet.ca

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Lynn Roberge-Brohm gets her message across... pg 3

FEATURE
NO LIFE LIKE IT
Anna Tomlinson loves her job as MNR firefighter

COUNTY LIFE
Start of the line
Guy Scott explores the beginning of the Victoria Railway

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
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Architect helps health board set sights on construction

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

After its inaugural year in operation, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation may be wrestling with a $75,000 deficit, but it has its sights set on the capital project at Haliburton Hospital and Hyland Crest.

The board's annual general meeting, held on June 26 at Minden's Community Centre, was attended by Millet Salter from Salter and Associates, the Barrie-based architectural firm selected to design both sites.

Salter's firm just finished construction of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, a $75-million project that was a joint effort with another firm. Salter presented what he called "very preliminary" schematics of the renovations that will accommodate the existing 62 long-term care beds at Hyland Crest, the new emergency department at the site and 30 new long-term care beds at Haliburton Hospital.

"A hospital and a long-term care facility have real benefits in being joined together, but there also has to be a degree of separation. The residents of the long-term care facilities call these facilities home," Salter said.

He added that privacy, support and security both during renovations and after the work is completed would be ensured for the residents at both locations. Also, the two sites would be left as one tender.

"There are two different approaches, two different sites, two different sets of needs but many commonalities of services, functions and components," he said.

The existing Haliburton site has 10 acute-care beds and will be given three more beds. The upgraded facility with 32 long-term care beds will probably be connected with a common entrance but separated, Salter explained.

Visitors' parking for the hospital and for the long-term care facility may be expanded to the rear, but he said soil conditions

See CONSTRUCTION page 4

STUBBORN AS A MULE: Eeyore the four-year-old mule wasn't in a hurry to go anywhere very fast, which suited two-year-old Daniel Gardiner just fine. Daniel and his mother Eliza were at Eagle Lake Farms to look at the animals and take a saunter around the barnyard.

Voting by mail or phone nixed this time around

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It looks like cottagers will have to vote the old-fashioned way this November – by driving up to the Highlands and casting a vote at their municipality's polling station.

While many municipalities had hoped they could make it easier by allowing voting by mail or phone – or even setting up a polling station in Toronto –, it seems there are too many uncertainties to make it feasible this time around.

"There's no security on these (mail-in) ballots," said Cardiff deputy-reeve Doug Holman at Wednesday's county council meeting. If people received a ballot by mail and decided not to vote, "the possibility exists that people could sell off their ballots and a group could take over a municipality."

What if the ballot is lost in the mail or not delivered on time? Canada Post is responsible for ensuring that ballots are delivered, but people who don't get one will likely complain to their municipal clerks who can do little to resolve the problem.

"We did a lot of research and did not get a lot of satisfactory

See VOTING page 7

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST = 90 cents

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Talks begin on amalgamation options

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Municipal clerks have taken out their pencils and erasers to try to figure out the financial repercussions of what would happen if the borders between some municipalities are removed.

County council has asked the clerks to look at the financial impact of three restructuring ideas:

• *County government plus three municipalities:*
  • Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon, Minden, Stanhope, Sherborne
  • Harcourt, Bicroft, Cardiff, Monmouth, Glamorgan
  • Dysart et al less Harcourt, and Snowdon
• *County plus four municipalities:*
  • Sherborne, Stanhope
  • Anson, Hindon, Minden, Lutterworth, Snowdon
  • Dysart et al less Harcourt, Glamorgan
  • Harcourt, Monmouth, Cardiff, Bicroft
• *County plus three municipalities (alternate):*
  • Snowdon, Glamorgan, Cardiff, Bicroft, Monmouth
  • Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon, Minden, Stanhope, Sherborne
  • Dysart et al

"We're here to lead our communities and we can't be blinded by what's happening in the rest of the province," Warden Murray Fearrey said to fellow county councillors last month when he proposed that council at least consider the other restructuring options. "You may not want to do it, but as leaders we should look at them."

Up until now, county council has considered and rejected a

See AMALGAMATION page 7

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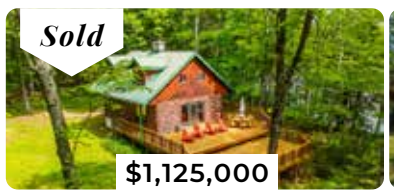


$1,125,000
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13427758

KENNISIS LAKE

$1,095,000
BED 4 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13432064

GULL LAKE

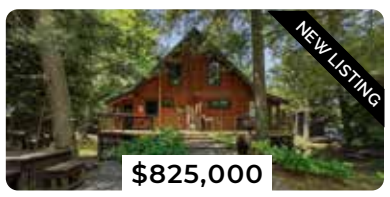
$879,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | COMING SOON TO REALTO.CA

GOODERHAM LAKE

$874,500
BED 3+2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12954018

HIGHWAY 35, MINDEN

$849,000
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

BARNUM LAKE


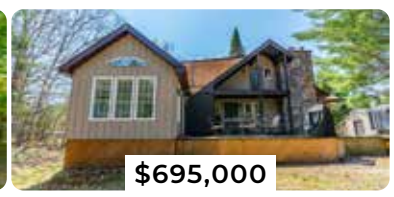
$825,000
BED 3 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13467094

KUSHOG LAKE

$699,900
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13467324

LONG LAKE

$699,900
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

$695,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

REYNOLDS ROAD

$650,000
BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

$639,000
BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

$635,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

$629,500
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13481332

KOSHLONG LAKE RD

$579,000
3.48 ACRES | MLS #X13444274

WEST SETTLEMENT RD

$555,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

SILVER BEACH

$499,995
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

$499,900
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

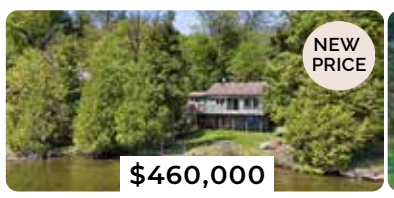
$495,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13229592

ALLEN LAKE

$494,500
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13495804

MONROCK LAKE

$475,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


$460,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

GULL RIVER

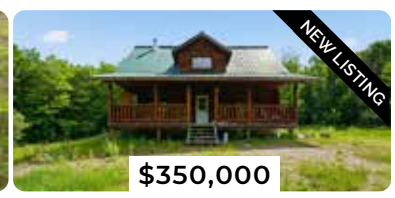
$449,500
BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY ROAD 503

$430,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD

$398,500
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

MCCREA ROAD


$350,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13490618

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0.48 Acres | MLS #X13129990

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